



**BLAKELY CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 4, 2014

CITY HALL

6:00 P.M.

I) Call To Order, Roll Call, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Howard called the meeting to order. Mr. Melzie Moseley gave the invocation. Mayor Howard led the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Councilman Smith, Councilman Middleton, Councilman Hutchins, City Attorney Tommy Coleman and Assistant City Clerk Trudie Evans. Councilman Mills was absent.

II) Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the January 7, 2014 minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the January 14, 2014 minutes with the correction of changing the date in the adjournment section from the 4th to the 14th.

III) Citizens And Delegations

Audra Claybrook - Mrs. Claybrook addressed the Council requesting that the Council place a referendum on the November 2014 ballot for a City liquor pour license. Mr. Coleman discussed the process required to put it on the ballot. Mr. Coleman will look into the time frame requirement between the time the council votes on the issue and the election to see if this can be put on the May ballot. Councilman Middleton made a motion to have Mr. Coleman move forward with placing the liquor pour license on the ballot. Councilman Hutchins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

County Commissioners - County Commissioner Taylor Bridges addressed the Council regarding the planned garbage compactor sites in the county. He asked that the City partner with the County and place a compactor site at the transfer station. The estimated cost of each site is \$40,000 to \$50,000. Greg Weathersby also addressed the Council, informing them that the Cities of Jakin and Damascus have agreed to partner with them to install compactor sites in their cities. The actual compactors will be rented and will cost an estimated \$800.00 to \$1000.00 per month. The County will purchase a truck to service the sites and the roll offs for the sites. A motion to move forward with the site at the transfer station on Malone Road was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Jeff Jones – Mr. Jones updated the Council on the Southside Drive project. He stated that he and D’Arsey Stewart of Blankenship Contracting had looked at possibilities for moving the sewer lines in this area. They currently have 2 alternatives. The first is to replace the existing lines where they currently are on Colonial and Southside. The second alternative is to completely abandon the existing lines and lay new lines down the back of the properties. This alternative is more complicated as it would involve moving all the residential hook ups. He is having a survey crew come and look at the area to see if we can simply shallow up the existing lines. Until Mr. Jones has those results he has no firm recommendation at this time.

IV) Administrative Committee Reports

Beer & Wine – Jayesh Patel – Days Mini Mart Bldg

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton to approve the beer and wine licenses for Jayesh Patel at 910 N Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Conditional Use – 2693 MLK - This building is currently zoned Commercial and the request is to use the building for religious services. As this location is directly behind a liquor store there was some discussion as to how this would affect the alcohol license for that store. The Planning Commission recommendation was that it not affect the package store at this time or at any time in the future. Mr. Coleman’s opinion was that it would not be an issue unless the package store closed and then wanted to re-open. A motion to approve the conditional use of 2693 Martin Luther King was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton. Motion carried.

Conditional Use - E South Blvd - The property in question is a vacant lot adjacent to 19211 E South Blvd and is currently zoned R-1, Single Family Residential. The request is to use the property for religious services; if request is approved there are plans to build a church on the vacant lot. A motion to approve the conditional use of was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Hutchins. Motion carried.

Truck Bids - Bids were received for a truck for the Gas Department. The purchase of this truck was in the 2014 budget, specifically \$26,000.00 in the SPLOST budget. Bids were received from Hattaway Ford, Thompson Motor Company, and Wade Ford. Those bids were as follows:

Hattaway Ford	2014 F150 Regular Cab	23,669.00
Wade Ford	2014 F150 Crew Cab 5 ½ ft bed	24,637.00
Wade Ford	2014 F150 Crew Cab 6 ½ ft bed	24,928.00
Hattaway Ford	2014 F150 Supercrew	26,952.00
Thompson Motor	2014 Regular Cab	32,200.00
Thompson Motor	2014 Crew Cab	33,000.00

Councilman Smith made a motion to go with the bid from Wade on the long wheel base truck. Councilman Middleton seconded the motion. Let the record show that Councilmen Smith and Middleton voted aye and Councilman Hutchins voted nay. Mayor Howard voted aye. Motion carried.

Building Official – request to go out for bids to destroy house at 151 Rose Ave - It is the opinion of the Mayor and Council that City workers will be able to tear down this house rather than paying someone else to do the work. Building Official Kenneth Jones will have someone come in and check the house for asbestos before any work is done at the location.

V) City Attorney’s Report

Second Reading & Adoption of Ordinance Amending Due Date of Occupational Taxes - There was a second reading of the ordinance amending the due date of occupational taxes. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

VI) City Clerk’s Report

City Clerk Melinda Crook was not in attendance. Assistant Clerk Trudie Evans handed out the financial reports and informed the council that Mrs. Crook would be in the office tomorrow if they had any questions. Mrs. Crook had requested permission to make some budget adjustments in the General Fund as follows:

Budget Adjustments 2013		
Acct #	Description	Amount
100-510-1500-512200-000	Social Security	-22.92
100-510-2500-571700-000	Recorder Court	-52.86
100-520-3500-522201-000	Repairs Maint Vehicles	-373.17
100-520-3500-522202-001	County Fire Dept Vehicles	-41.14
100-540-4900-512200-000	Social Security	-549.09
		-1,039.18

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to allow the city clerk to make those adjustments. Motion carried.

VII) New Items Proposed By Mayor And City Council

Meeting dates - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to approve the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM as the meeting dates for 2014. Motion carried.

Mayor pro tem - A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to open nominations for mayor pro tem. Motion carried. Councilman Torre Mills was nominated to be mayor pro-tem. There were no further nominations. A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilman Middleton to close nominations for mayor pro tem. Motion carried. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to appoint Councilman Mills as mayor pro tem. Motion carried.

Reappointment to SWGRC - A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to reappoint Councilman Hutchins to the SWGRC board. Motion carried.

Appointments to Public Safety Board - The City appoints 2 council members to the Public Safety Board, the Mayor is always on the board. Terms are for 1 year and expire December 31st of each year. A motion to was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Smith to reappoint Councilman Middleton and Councilman Mills to the Public Safety board. Motion carried.

Energy Survey School - The Mayor informed those present that the school system had asked the City to help them do an energy survey to help the schools conserve energy. Electric Cities of Georgia has a program to provide that service and since the City has paid ECG for services that we are going to allow ECG to provide that service to the school system

Discuss Voter Registrar – Mayor Howard read minutes from 1996 that had established the payment of the voter registrars. He then informed the Council that the County will be going to a Board of Elections and Registration effective January 1, 2015.

Update on Economic Development – Mayor Howard stated that the City still had \$40,000 for economic development in the budget that was to be paid to EC2055 and that the County also had funds for economic development in their budget. Since these funds are still budgeted the City and County will work with the Chamber of Commerce regarding economic development.

Mayor Howard informed the Council that Carla Jackson had turned in a request to speak regarding parking on Pine Hill Drive. She was not present, but her request was for no parking signs to be put up on Pine Hill as people were parking on the street and making it unsafe for her to exit her driveway. Charlie Wade and Kenneth Jones were both present so Mayor Howard ask that they look into the situation.

Mayor Howard discussed the extreme cold weather and the increase in utility bills due to the cold. He asked the Council to consider helping some citizens by waiving the 10% penalty for the needy on an as needed basis for 2 periods, the current bill and next month's bill. A motion to do so was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton. Motion carried.

Councilman Hutchins questioned getting porta-potties for the basketball court.

VIII) Public Comments

Margaret Wimberly addressed the council on behalf of the resident at 16 Chipstead Street. Ms. Wimberly stated that her bill was over \$700.00 but her income was only \$500.00. She asked about some sort of payment options. Mayor Howard instructed her to discuss this with the City Clerk. She also asked where to apply for the heating assistance donations that had been requested in a previous bill. She was informed that the HEAT program is run by the Neighborhood Service Center and she should go there to apply for energy assistance. Mayor Howard also stated that due to the large consumption he

would have someone go by and look at the house just to see if something was wrong.

John Wesley Jenkins addressed the Council requesting that Chattahoochee Avenue be renamed to Jenkins Blvd. Mayor Howard then asked Mr. Coleman about the process involved to have a street renamed. Mayor Howard asked Mr. Coleman to draw up a policy regarding renaming streets...He then told Mr. Jenkins that we will look into renaming the street and that the City appreciates his years of service.

Taylor Bridges then brought up the traffic light at McDonalds stating how traffic backs up if northbound traffic on Church Street is attempting to make a left hand turn and asked what can be done about it. Mayor Howard informed him that is a DOT light, so a request to DOT to adjust the timing of the light would have to be made. Mayor Howard also commented that it may be possible to get some of the land from the vacant lot there to put in a turn lane.

IX) Adjournment

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith. Motion carried.

Anthony Howard, Mayor